

JOHN AND SARAH MANDEVILLE—LEGAL REPRESENTA-  
TIVES OF.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 748.]

MAY 18, 1860.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, submitted  
the following

R E P O R T.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was re-referred by Congress the petition of Sarah Mandeville, deceased, late widow of John Mandeville, report:*

That the same petition was on the 25th day of January, 1838, referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, and after due consideration a report was made thereon sustaining the prayer of the petitioner, and recommending the passage of a bill for her relief.

The same petition was referred to the first session of the 30th Congress, and by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, into whose hands it was placed, it received a favorable report and the recommendation of the passage of a bill for the relief of the petitioner.

In this state of the claim, Congress referred it to the Court of Claims, where the petitioners preferred their petition, setting forth the nature and origin of the claim and of their interest in it.

That after a hearing in the Court of Claims, the court say: "The claim being thus barred by an act of Congress, the claimant of course is not entitled to relief."

The claim now comes up upon its merits; its equity upon the original petition of Sarah Mandeville, who states in her petition that she is a daughter of Colonel Samuel Drake, and the widow of John Mandeville.

That in the year 1777 your petitioner's said husband, John Mandeville, was the owner of and occupied a farm situated on the eastern bank of the Hudson river, on which said farm there was then standing a dwelling-house, (occupied as an inn or tavern,) a barn, carriage-house, and sheds, all of which buildings were at that time, in the estimation of your petitioner, of the value of from three to four thousand dollars, and that the household furniture in said house, and belonging to the said John Mandeville, was of the value of at least five hundred dollars. That in the said year 1777 General Putnam, of the Ameri-

can army, with his soldiers, encamped on your petitioner's late husband's farm, and took possession of and occupied all of said buildings for the purposes of said army. The dwelling-house was used as a place of headquarters for said army by the officers thereof, and the carriage-house, barn, and sheds, were used by the said army to put in and secure therein their baggage, provisions, and ammunition, and were, in the fall of said year, 1777, entirely in the possession of the said army under the command of General Putnam; and that a number of the officers of said army quartered there in said house, and among others, General Putnam, General McDougal, General Huntington, Colonel Burr, and Major Platt. That one room of the house was used as an office for the paymaster, and another room for a court-martial to sit in, and that one Strang was there sentenced to be hung. That sentinels were constantly stationed about said buildings day and night while they were so occupied by said army.

And your petitioner further states that while the said American army, under the command of General Putnam, were in full possession and occupancy of the said buildings, as aforesaid, on or about the first day of October, in the year 1777, some British troops came up the Hudson river, landed at Peekskill landing, marched to said buildings and burned and utterly destroyed all of them in the day time, together with the household furniture of your petitioner's late husband, the said John Mandeville above mentioned; that at this time your petitioner's said husband was in the United States service; that your petitioner's said husband died on the 17th day of April, 1827. The credibility of the said petitioner is duly certified.

In support of the truth of the petitioner's claim is the affidavit of John Craft, who states that Sarah Mandeville is a daughter of Colonel Samuel Drake, and the widow of John Mandeville, deceased; that this deponent lived in the town of Peekskill, Westchester county, State of New York, in the year 1777; that he was well acquainted with the petitioner, Sarah Mandeville, and her late husband, John Mandeville, who resided, in 1777, in Peekskill, and that the said John Mandeville was the owner of a farm at Peekskill, on which stood a large frame dwelling-house, barn, carriage-house, and sheds; the said dwelling-house was then used by said John Mandeville as an inn.

Deponent further states that, in the year 1777, General Putnam and his soldiers encamped on said Mandeville's farm, near said buildings, the army under General Putnam were in the possession of said buildings; the dwelling-house was used by said army as a place of headquarters; the barn, carriage-house, and sheds were used by said army to put in their baggage, provision, and ammunition. Deponent very frequently passed and repassed by said buildings, and always saw sentinels stationed around them day and night; that the British came up the Hudson river, landed at Peekskill landing, marched to said buildings in the daytime, while they were so occupied by the American army, under General Putnam, about the 4th October, 1777, and burned all of said buildings. This deponent was an eye-witness, standing upon an eminence some distance off, saw the buildings in flames, and saw them all burned down by the said British army; that deponent further states, after the British army had left the ground, he

went where the buildings had stood whilst they were yet smoking ; that said buildings were worth at least four thousand dollars, and that the furniture burned by the said fire was worth at least five hundred dollars ; that John Mandeville died on the 17th April, 1827.

The above-named witness is duly certified as of good character, entitled to credit and belief.

Henry Thomas testifies that he was acquainted with Sarah Mandeville, the petitioner ; that she was a daughter of Colonel Samuel Drake, and the widow of John Mandeville, deceased ; that this deponent was very frequently at Peekskill in the year 1777 ; he was knowing to John Mandeville's owning a farm at said Peekskill, New York, on which stood a large house, (which was used by said Mandeville as an inn,) barn, carriage-house, and shed, the buildings worth from three to four thousand dollars. In the year 1777 General Putnam and his army encamped on said Mandeville's farm, and occupied all of said buildings ; the inn was used by said army as a place of headquarters, and the other buildings were occupied by said army to store their baggage in, provision and ammunition ; and whilst so occupied, and in full possession of the American army, the British army came up the Hudson river, landed at Peekskill landing, marched to said buildings in the daytime, set fire to them and burned them. This deponent was present, and a soldier in the American army, and himself assisted in driving the British from Peekskill ; that he saw the buildings on fire, and saw them burned up.

The above witness is certified as a credible, respectable person, entitled to belief.

Your committee, after a careful consideration and examination of the proof in the case, with all the circumstances connected with it, are satisfied as to the justness and correctness of the claim ; are of the opinion that the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted, and they accordingly report a bill for her relief, and recommend its passage.

